

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6342

To establish pilot projects for agriculture renewable energy systems.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010

Mr. HOLDEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Agriculture

A BILL

To establish pilot projects for agriculture renewable energy
systems.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PILOT PROJECTS FOR AGRICULTURE RENEW-**
4 **ABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish,
6 under such terms and conditions as the Secretary deter-
7 mines appropriate, pilot projects for renewable energy sys-
8 tems to provide financial and technical assistance through
9 existing agriculture programs to eligible entities to imple-
10 ment renewable energy systems in participating States.

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT CRITERIA.—In establishing
2 pilot projects under this section, the Secretary shall—

3 (1) ensure, to the maximum extent practicable,
4 that such projects—

5 (A) are located in geographically diverse
6 regions of the United States;

7 (B) consist of a diverse group of herd sizes
8 and technologies; and

9 (C) are located in States that have estab-
10 lished net metering programs; and

11 (2) take into consideration any other criteria
12 that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

13 (c) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Financial assistance pro-
15 vided under this section shall consist of cost-shares,
16 grants, loans, or loan guarantees, or any combina-
17 tion thereof.

18 (2) OPERATION.—In providing financial assist-
19 ance to carry out this section, the Secretary shall
20 rely on the authorities granted to the Secretary
21 under—

22 (A) the Environmental Quality Incentives
23 Program;

24 (B) the Rural Energy for America Pro-
25 gram;

1 (C) the Biomass Crop Assistance Program;

2 (D) the Rural Utilities Service; or

3 (E) any other program that the Secretary
4 determines to be appropriate to carry out the
5 purposes this section.

6 (d) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section,
7 the Secretary shall consult with State and Federal agen-
8 cies, and any other entity that the Secretary determines
9 has relevant experience.

10 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
11 of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall sub-
12 mit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition,
14 and Forestry of the Senate a report describing the imple-
15 mentation of the program authorized under this section.

16 (f) STUDY.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct
18 a study to evaluate rural electrification issues. Such
19 study shall include—

20 (A) an analysis of rural infrastructure; and

21 (B) rural electric transmission and genera-
22 tion.

23 (2) REPORT.—As soon as practicable after con-
24 ducting the study under paragraph (1), the Sec-

retary shall submit to Congress a report containing the results of the study.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means a producer or group of producers implementing a renewable energy system on a farm.

(2) ELIGIBLE ELECTRIC UTILITY.—The term “eligible electric utility” means—

(A) any public or cooperative electric utility that is eligible to borrow from the Rural Utility Service electrification programs authorized under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.) that serves a rural area defined by that Act;

(B) any current borrower from the Rural Utilities Service electrification program authorized under that Act; or

(C) any entity primarily owned or controlled by an entity described in subparagraph (A) or (B).

(3) NET METERING.—The term “net metering” means measuring the difference between electricity supplied by an electric utility and the electricity generated by a net metering customer and fed back to the electric utility over the applicable billing period.

1 (4) RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS.—The term
2 “renewable energy systems” means a system where
3 renewable energy is derived from animal waste and
4 used for improving energy conservation on a farm.

5 (5) PARTICIPATING STATE.—The term “partici-
6 pating state” means a State that has established a
7 net metering program.

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